

## **Quote Sheet: Oregon/Washington Contractors and Experts**

**Note: To contact these contractors, please call Brian Gorman with NOAA Public Affairs at 206-526-6613 or [brian.gorman@noaa.gov](mailto:brian.gorman@noaa.gov).**

### **Contractors**

- Mike Herrick, Owner, Aquatic Contracting, Portland, Oregon
  - **Quote:** “Over the last 10 years restoration projects have allowed us to provide sustainable livings for our employees. Many of them come from the natural resource industry and they can use their skills in construction and feel good about what they are doing. We have grown from just a couple of employees to as many as 20. Without this funding we would not be able to provide these opportunities and support the local economies where we work.”
  - **Project Information:** Mike Herrick and his employees at Aquatic Contracting are being contracted by The Freshwater Trust to construct large wood jams and dig side channels at the **Salmon River Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project**. This project is restoring 2 miles of stream in the Mt. Hood National Forest for the benefit of Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead trout, all of which are listed under the Endangered Species Act.
- Bill Leavens, Owner, L&S Rock Products, Central Point, Oregon
  - **Quotes:**
    - “There is a high degree of satisfaction in sitting up on equipment and seeing salmon swim by you in the channel you just reconstructed.”
    - “I hired an employee who’d been laid off from his previous job. When I talked with him about wrapping up restoration work this season he said, ‘When you hired me, I was behind on my bills, and I want to let you know that I’m caught up on my bills, and I’m not apprehensive about the winter.’ ”
    - “We all work together collaboratively to address problems...This collaboration has given us a new avenue for going after other contracts.”
    - “This Little Butte project was almost 100% local.”
  - **Project Information:** Bill Leavens and his employees built alcoves and engineered riffles in the stream as part of the **Little Butte Creek Meander Restoration Project** in 2011. This project was led by the GEOS Institute and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. It improved habitat conditions in a mile of the Rogue River tributary, which now provides high quality habitat for coho salmon and Chinook salmon, which are listed under the Endangered Species Act.
- Gary Rose, Owner, Leisure Excavating, Inc., Florence, Oregon
  - **Quotes:**
    - “Fish restoration is something I’ve always wanted to be involved in. This [Waite Ranch] is the first large restoration project I’ve been involved in...We’re tearing down a house, barn, feed shed, moving a mobile home, removing an acre of cement and regrading. I strive to salvage as much as I can, and am shooting for 80-90 percent reuse on site materials.”
    - “My dad owned the timber land on the other side of the road from Waite Ranch. That’s where I was born and raised. And Waite Ranch is the first place I ever worked. There’s a lot of sentiment for me in this project.”

- “It’s sad to see the mills, dairy and beef farms here close, but it’s reassuring that [with projects like these] there will be more fish in the creek. I like to fish, I like the habitat.”
- **Project Information:** Gary Rose is currently demolishing and removing old infrastructure at the **Waite Ranch Tidal Wetland Restoration Project** site in the Siuslaw River estuary on the Oregon Coast. Once the dikes, tidegates, and culverts are removed from the site, full tidal exchange will be restored to 209 acres of the property. The project will also open more than 10 miles of high quality tidal channels designated as Essential Fish Habitat for Oregon Coast Chinook and Endangered Species Act-listed coho salmon. The project will also benefit other fish (like herring, sturgeon, and flounder) as well as 46 types of birds and other wildlife.

## Project Sponsors

- Robin Stanton, The Nature Conservancy, Seattle, WA
  - **Quote from Craig Holmgren, Project Superintendent (Interwest Construction) on the Fisher Slough Marsh Restoration Project:** “This job has kept my family in employment for two years, and it’ll be three when it’s done. I’ve had up to 20 employees work the job throughout- a minimum of 4 but a max of 20, plus all our subs. So you’re looking at 50+ guys just on my end that have had employment for the last couple years out of this job. It’s a pretty big impact in the community. Ninety percent of us live locally—within 10 miles of the job—and we’ve lived here all our lives. It’s kind of fun to work close to home and to be able to do something to help the community and the fish.”
  - **Project Information:** Craig Holmgren and his crew have been working with Robin Stanton and others at The Nature Conservancy at the Fisher Slough Marsh Restoration project for 3 years. Once the levee setback, tide gate replacement, and other activities are complete, the project will have restored 60 acres of marsh and opened up access to 15 miles of stream channel for threatened Chinook salmon. The project is also benefiting the local farmers by reducing the risk of flood damage and lessening their drainage maintenance costs. The project received funding from the Recovery Act in 2009.
  - **Contact Information:** work (206) 436-6274, cell (425) 478-5641, [rstanton@tnc.org](mailto:rstanton@tnc.org)

## Experts

- George Pess, Supervisory Research Fishery Biologist, NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Seattle, Washington
  - Quote: “We are already seeing the positive impacts of habitat restoration in the Northwest. One example is the removal of fish passage barriers for salmon, projects like replacing culverts and removing older dams. Typically we’re seeing anything from 100-300 percent increase in fish numbers above the barriers just years to decades after they are removed.”
  - Expertise: Habitat restoration effects on salmon;  
[http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/research/staff/display\\_staffprofile.cfm?staffid=241](http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/research/staff/display_staffprofile.cfm?staffid=241)

- Spencer Beebe, President, Ecotrust, Portland, Oregon
  - Quote:
    - “Restoration can drive economic development and job creation, particularly in rural communities that have suffered from persistently high unemployment rates, well above the national average. And, unlike in many other sectors of our economy, restoration jobs can’t be outsourced to far-off places.”
- Kristen Sheeran, Lead Economist and Acting Director of Knowledge Systems, Ecotrust, Portland, Oregon
  - Quotes:
    - “While our analysis focused on the impact of Oregon restoration projects, similar benefits could be expected throughout the region.”
  - Expertise: Ecosystem economics; environmental politics and policy; economics of climate change; <http://www.e3network.org/srcdtl.php?cnID=60>
  - Contact Information: (503) 467-0811, [ksheeran@ecotrust.org](mailto:ksheeran@ecotrust.org)
- Cassandra Moseley, Director, Ecosystem Workforce Program, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon
  - Expertise: Ecosystem economics; environmental politics and policy; <http://pages.uoregon.edu/cmoseley/>
  - Contact Information: (541) 914-4641 cell, (541) 346-4545 office, [cmoseley@uoregon.edu](mailto:cmoseley@uoregon.edu)